



Cosmos+ 2015 (Roberto Fortuna)

Cosmos + A Big Bang performance about the Wonders of the Universe

By Kim Skjoldager-Nielsen

Cosmos + (2014) is a production created with the aim of arousing enthusiasm and curiosity about the beauty and many mysteries of the universe. The title *Cosmos +* announces the theme directly and by adding a *plus* creates the expectation of something more than a presentation of the wonders of the universe. The performance brings us closer to the stars, the planets, the sun, comets and asteroids and such phenomena as supernova, white dwarfs, red giants, black holes, dark matter and dark energy, background radiation and the Big Bang.

We follow the boy *Tom7*, who carries out his space experiments. He knows everything about the universe! He meets the astronomer, the mathematician, two physicists, two philosophers and two operators. They are experts who can provide us with facts about the phenomena in the universe – while the moon-girl comes and goes. The farther we look out into space, the farther we are back in time. We meet cosmic phenomena that begins with the solar system and ends with the Big Bang, followed by quantum fluctuations – like thousands of soap bubbles. Short, humorous stories from daily life on the planet Earth are mixed with almost incomprehensible facts about the universe. This is where we live, and it is from here that we look up into the sky and are amazed. We are a part of a drama that takes place far, far away but that influences us every day. Magnificent images fill the stage. Projections of immediate beauty and violent forces are accompanied by rhythmic electro-music. Music and images, drawings and narratives show the fantastic history of the universe, where everything is interconnected.

The concept of the production displaces an adult perspective on the universe to the child's perspective, where it meets the incomprehensibility of the extraordinary beauty of The Whole with great curiosity and wonder. For adults to see like a child again – without filters and reservations – is not quite possible. But we can approach the horizon of experience of the child through surrendering to the fascination and excitement of things before trying to understand them.